

PARK & RECREATION MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012
6:15 P.M.

The Parks & Recreation board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15th Street, Rushville. President Sue Otte called the meeting to order. Members present were: Paul Barada Sr., James Zachery, Dave Malson and Will St. John. Also present was Attorney Tracy Newhouse, Parks Director Danny Mathews, Secretary Carla Sharpe, Pool Manager Rita Kaster, Mayor Mike Pavey and several others in audience representing Dog Walk, Dog Park, and Ball Leagues.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of February 14th was presented for approval. Barada made a motion to approve minutes. Malson seconded motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Claims Approval: Reviewed prior to meeting by Barada and St. John. Barada moved to approve the minutes for the month. St. John seconded the motion. Motion carried. Claims approved.

Mayor's Reports:

- 1) **Bark Park** – Aaron Gurley and Animal Warden Cara Moran have met with the Mayor discussing a Bark Park and it's location. Some residents would like to see the west corner of Riverside Park used, but they are also looking at Community Park.
- 2) **Riverside Clean Up** – The levee used to be used as a dump. Trucks would drive over to scrap metal items. Pavey has contacted the Army Corp of Engineers and the DNR. They are going to allow us 2 days to loosen up all debri and pull out of there as long as the weather is decent. They just do not want us tearing up the Levee. Once this area is cleaned up is hoping we can extend walking trails at Riverside Park.
- 3) **Sunken Garden** – There has been one serious injury, resistance to elderly, colorful language, intimidation are just a few reasons to do something with the Sunken Garden. We either need to put something around it or fill it in. The Historic board says no value in the hole. Suggested making it a monument with a plaque.
Malson stated him and his wife walk every night and it is a nice thing for the little kids. For the older kids it's a problem. It's sad everyone has to loose something they enjoy.
Pavey stated a lot of adults don't feel comfortable going to the park anymore.
Barada asked how many kids cause trouble? The Mayor said maybe 20.
Malson said he enjoys seeing kids have fun and hates to penalize them. Malson suggested more Police Patrol than we've had in the past.
Barada said the simple solution would be to fill in the hole and provide the kids other means to jump.
Malson stated you would have to shut down the whole park.
- 4) **Parks Patrol** – Gurley is sick but the Mayor presented the paperwork on the Parks Patrol. Pavey said he reviewed the rules and regulations.
Tucker would like to implement a 6-10 hour training course to get people knowledgable. We don't want to rambo's.
The Police Department has assured us they will be real responsive.
Gurley and Tucker both approve this program.
Sharpe will make copies of paperwork and get to board members.

Parks Director's Reports:

Easter Egg Hunt – Mathews stated the Easter Egg Hunt will be April 7th at South Veterans Memorial Park at noon and would like to hand bunnies out to the kids.

He asked permission to purchase \$577 worth of bunnies out of the Non Reverting Special Event Fund. Barada moved to approve the purchase of bunnies at \$577. Malson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Mathews encouraged all Parks Board members to attend and help hand out the bunnies. Hunt starts at noon and asked everyone to arrive at 11:30.

Mathews stated he has started getting his equipment ready to mow here in about two to three weeks.

Reports from Other Committees & Boards:

- 1) Rita Kaster – Swimming Pool Update – Kaster reported they are starting to do the interviews and schedules this coming Saturday. She plans on doing swim lessons and Zumba again this year. Malson asked for a report with starting dates. Kaster stated she will have this ready by the middle of April. Barada suggested offering Aerobics to Senior Citizens. Kaster stated that Tonya is getting certified to do this. Kaster reported that Ryan Standish will not be doing lifeguard certification this year. Sharpe stated she thought Jessie McCleese has done that for us in the past. Kaster said things are taking for and she is gearing up for the summer.
- 2) James Zachery – Report on Partners for a Healthy Rush County – Zachery stated he went to their meeting last Thursday. He feels this is a good opportunity to partner up with them on the recreational side. They are preparing a logo and pamphlets letting people know all the opportunities that are available in Rush County. They would like to put together an 8 week walking program. A steps program with different teams and competitions. They would like for us to help promote and would also like to use the trails at Riverside Park. Their meetings are the 1st Tuesdays of every month. Please go to their Facebook page and hit “Like”. Their goal is to promote a healthier Rush County.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Dave Hasecuster - Booker T. Request – Sharpe stated she called the Insurance Company and they are okay with the St. Mary's School kids being taken to Booker T. in case of an emergency. Malson stated we can leave a key at the Police Department and then once they are alerted they will bring the key and help immediately. Malson made a motion to approve St. Mary's use of the Booker T. Building in case of an emergency and subject to a key being left at the Police Department. Barada seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 2) Tom Jobe – Shady Hills Nursery – Ball Diamond Request – Discussed which fields Mr. Jobe was going to maintain. Mr. Jobe is to be invited to the next meeting.
- 3) Aaron Gurley – Discuss Parks Patrol- Mentioned earlier.
- 4) Lighting for City Signs – Mathews said he has received a couple of quotes. One from Mark Osborne and one from Custer Electric. Rosfeld Electric was not interested. Mathews said Osborne is solar and Custer is Electric and if we go with Custer who will assume the electric bill?

After further discussion Barada moved to accept Osborne's bid of? and to take the money out of the Non Reverting Fund. Zachery seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

- 1) Georgia Gurley – Dog Walk – Georgia stated she was President of Skylar's Journey and this year she would like to do a Dog Walk in South Veterans Memorial Park for a fundraiser on April 22nd. This would raise money for people in Indiana with Duplicate Chromosome 15. As of today, there are only approximately 600 worldwide registered with this rare DUP15Q Condition 77% in the U.S.

Common Symptoms of a person with DUP15Q – Seizures, non-vocal abilities or communication difficulties, delayed milestones as a child, fine and or gross motor skill difficulties, learning delays or autism like behaviors. Each person is very unique in how the duplication affects their daily function of activities. Some are "high functioning" while many others are severely handicapped.

Skylar's journey was formed by many good friends here in Rushville with love and support of skylar and our family during difficult times when his seizures were so severe he had to wear a helmet and was put in a wheelchair for his safety. Skylar experienced over 100 seizures in 24 hours both physical and non physical brain wave detection from Mayo and the Cleveland Clinic. We are excited to have connected with two local families with children who have the same DUP15Q Syndrome one is Anna who is 11 and Andy who is 6. Our organization and efforts continue to grow and we are thrilled to be able to supply Andy and his family a special push chair for their needs July 2011.

Georgia stated this is their last year to raise money. They will have another fundraiser in July. The Dog Walk will start at the shelter house in South Veterans Memorial Park. People will fill out a registration form and sign a waiver. People will have to clean up after their animals. They will have dog treats and bandana for each dog with watering stations at both ends of the parks for animals and owners.

Accepting donations.

Zachery suggested posting this in the parks so walkers will know this will be going on.

Gurley asked if the Parks Board would donate the use of the shelter for that day.

Mathews stated he will support the cause by donating doggy bags.

Barada moved to approve the Dog Walk as presented and to waive the rental fee of the shelter house which will be our contribution to the cause. Malson seconded. Motion carried.

- 2) William Stout – Request Use of Amphitheater – Sharpe reported she received a phone call from this gentleman who is an injured soldier from Afghanistan and he would like to know if he could get a discount on the use of the Amphitheater for his daughters wedding on September 29th. After further discussion St. John moved to deny this request for use of amphitheater. Barada seconded. Motion carried.

- 3) Ball Lease Agreements - Ruby Welter was present from T-Ball. Thanked the Parks Board for allowing her the past 9 years to take care of T-Ball. This is their last year as a family doing this. She would like to pass this job onto someone with the same goals. She has really enjoyed working with the 4-7 year olds.

She stated they will have to pay their \$500 maintenance fee this year as they have done no improvements to their field.

She would like the money raised for T-Ball to stay in the T-Ball's hands. She wants to prevent money from going to other leagues.

Zachery said he would like to see all ball leagues under one community program. Would like to see everyone working together.

St. John stated he would like to see one complex.

Barada said its for the kids and the common goal is fun.

Zachery said he would like to see an easy flow.

St. Johns stated most cities don't have T-Ball anymore. They call them Instructional Leagues.

Pete McCorkle asked to speak at this time. He stated he would like to innigrate all leagues together.

He stated he would like to improve the parking area. He would like to put down rail road ties and gravel down to initiate parelle parking.

McCorkle said they are practicing now and would like to have a key to the restrooms. Mathews stated there is one in the concession stand but he has full intentions to turn the water on and get restrooms open as soon as possible.

McCorkle asked for more barrels. Mathews stated those were set out yesterday.

After further questions, Malson decided this topic needs to be on the agenda for another meeting.

Lease agreement dates were discussed. Malson moved that all leases should be from April 2012 to December 2012 as prepared. Barada second the motion. Motion carried.

Malson stated he would also like for the representative from Shady Hills to come back to next meeting to clarify which ball diamonds he is going to take care of.

Items not known in advance:

Sharpe reported she received a call from Billy Reeves requesting the use of the Amphitheater for a church revival, non denominational. It will be held for four nights June 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Malson stated he did not think we should waive the fee for this as churches have budgets.

St. John said he thinks we need to do a plan across the board.

Sharpe stated that Not for Profit's are allowed to use things for no fee and weddings, reunions, graduations and such there was a fee.

Malson stated churches have other places to go.

Barada made a motion to approve the use of the Amphitheater for the basic fee schedule per day.

Malson seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.